



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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MONROE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER TO RETIRE

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that Monroe County Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Thomas D. Smith, will retire later this month. Brooks will name Dr. Caroline R. Dignan, presently Deputy Medical Examiner, to the position of Chief Medical Examiner.

*"Dr. Smith has dedicated many years of professional and distinguished service to the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office," said **Brooks**. "I thank him for his hard work and commitment, and I wish him the best as he begins a well deserved retirement"*

*"I am pleased to appoint Dr. Dignan to the position of Chief Medical Examiner. Her experience and expertise will serve the Medical Examiner's Office, and Monroe County, well," **Brooks** added.*

Dr. Smith worked as an Assistant Medical Examiner for Monroe County in the early 1970s and again in the 1980s. In 1990, he was named Deputy Medical Examiner, a position that he continued in, until being named Chief Medical Examiner in 2002. Dr. Smith earned his Medical Degree from New York University in 1969. He has also served as Chief Resident of Pathology at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Dignan joined the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office in 2002. She worked previously as a Deputy Medical Examiner and Pathologist at the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office. Dr. Dignan earned her Medical Degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1993. She completed her residency in pathology at the University of Michigan, where she was Chief Resident, and completed her fellowship in forensic pathology at the University of New Mexico.

The Medical Examiner's Office, part of the Monroe County Department of Public Health, is responsible for investigating and certifying all reported deaths that are not attended by a physician, and those which may not be natural in manner. The office performs forensic autopsies and staff members are often called to provide court testimony on the results of their investigations. The local office also provides such services on a contractual basis to several neighboring counties. Over 2,500 case investigations are completed in a typical year. In addition, the office actively participates in emergency preparedness and disaster planning efforts.